GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3620
ANSWERED ON:18.04.2005
INDUS WATER TREATY
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Satpathy Shri Tathagata;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of Indus Water Treaty signed between India and Pakistan in 1960;

(b) if so, the share of water of Western rivers that can India use for household and agricultural purposes;

(c) whether there is any restriction to store the water of Western rivers by India; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) The salient features of the Indus Waters Treaty 1960 signed between India and Pakistan are:

- All the waters of the Eastern Rivers shall be available for the unrestricted use of India, except as otherwise expressly provided. Except for Domestic Use and Non- Consumptive Use, Pakistan shall be under an obligation to let flow, and shall not permit any intereference with, the waters of Sutlej Main and the Ravi Main in the reaches where these rivers flow in Pakistan and have not yet finally crossed into Pakistan.

- Pakistan shall receive for unrestricted use all those waters of the Western Rivers which India is under obligation to let flow under the following provision: India shall be under an obligation to let flow all the waters of the Western Rivers, and shall not permit any interference with these waters, except for the following uses, restricted (except as provided in the Treaty) in case of each of the rivers, The Indus, The Jhelum and The Chenab, to the drainage basin thereof;

(a) Domestic Use;
(b) Non-Consumptive Use;
(c) Agricultural Use, as set out in the Treaty; and
(d) Generation of hydro-electric power, as set out in the Treaty.

(b) Household use falling under Domestic Use is restricted to the respective drainage basin of each of the rivers The Indus, The Jhelum and The Chenab. No restriction on the quantum of such use is specified. In respect of Agricultural Use by India on Western Rivers, the Treaty provides that apart from the irrigation from the Ranbir and Pratap Canals under speciied maximum withdrawals of water during specified periods, India may continue to irrigate from the Western Rivers those areas which were so irrigated as on the Effective Date (01.04.1960). In addition, India may make further limited withdrawals from the Western Rivers to the extent India may consider necessary to meet the irrigation needs of areas in respect of each of the Western Rivers, specified in terms of Irrigated Cropped Area. This additional available maximum Irrigated Cropped Area is 7,01,000 acres, development of irrigation in which has been further specified in terms of withdrawals from river flow and withdrawals from General Storage cum river flow. The Treaty does not stipulate share/quantum of water nor types of crops for the purpose.

(c) The aggregate storage capacity of all Single-purpose and Multi-purpose Reservoirs which may be constructed by India after the Effective Date on each of the River Systems (of Western Rivers) shall not exceed, for each of the specified categories namely General Storage, Power Storage and Flood Storage, the quantities specified in the Treaty. The overall aggregate storage capacity thus available to India is 3.6 million acre feet.

(d) This is as per the provisions of the Treaty.